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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/593,107	06/13/2000	Yoji Kawamoto	SONY-T0708	7564

26263 7590 02/09/2006

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EXAMINER
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NGUYEN, THANH T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2144

DATE MAILED: 02/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/593,107

Applicant(s)

KAWAMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Tammy T. Nguyen

Art Unit

2144

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE (3) MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 November 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |



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**Detailed Office Action**

1. This action is in response to the amendment filed on November 10, 2005.
2. Claims 1-15 are pending.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

4. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by

Greg Kisor., (USPN 6,098.091 – Date of Patent: August 1, 2000, herein referred to as “Kisor”).

5. As to claim 1, Kisor teaches the invention as claimed, including a communication system for exchanging prescribed information through a network having pieces of terminal equipment and an information control means connected thereto, said communication system being operatively configured such that: registered information characterizing said pieces of terminal equipment connected to said network system is registered in said information control means connected to said network system (Fig.1, management program 144, and remote computers, resources available, see col.4, lines 36-50), said registered information characterizing said pieces of terminal equipment including information identifying equipment types (see col.3, lines 19-44) and functional characteristics of said pieces of terminal equipment (Fig.3B, resource available file, see col.4, lines 44-50, and col.5, lines 1-53), and

when prescribed information is transmitted to the terminal equipment of a receiver connected to said network from the terminal equipment of a transmitter connected to said network (see col.6, lines 16-30), a transmission path for transmitting said information from said terminal equipment of the transmitter to said terminal equipment of the receiver is established on the basis of said registered information (see col.4, lines 51-67, and col.7, lines 3-37).

6. As to claim 2, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, wherein said prescribed information transmitted from said terminal equipment of said transmitter is converted into information which can be received by said terminal equipment of said receiver (see col.6, lines 40-59).

7. As to claim 3, Kisor teaches the invention as claimed, including an information

controller connected to a network comprising: registering means for registering registered information characterizing terminal equipment connected to said network system including terminal equipment of at least one transmitter and terminal equipment of at least one receiver (Fig. 1, management program 144, and remote computers, resources available, see col.4, lines 36-50), said registered information characterizing said pieces of terminal equipment including information identifying equipment types (see col.3, lines 19-44) functional characteristics of said pieces of terminal equipment (Fig.3B, resource available file, see col.4, lines 44-50, and col.5, lines 1-53), and communication path determining means for determining a transmission path from said terminal equipment of said transmitter to said terminal equipment of said receiver based on the said registered information when prescribed information is to be transmitted to said terminal equipment of the receiver from the terminal equipment of said transmitter (see col.6, lines 16-30, and col.4, lines 51-67, and col.7, lines 3-37).

8. As to claim 4, Kisor teaches the invention as claimed, further comprising converting means for converting said prescribed information transmitted from said terminal equipment of said (see col.6, lines 40-59).

9. As to claim 5, Kisor teaches the invention as claimed, including a network system for exchanging prescribed information via a network, said network operatively configured such that:

registering information characterizing terminal equipment used by a user terminal equipment connected to said terminal equipment used by the user and other terminal equipment connected to said network is registered in registering means associated with an information controller also connected to the network, together with information identifying said user as available

environmental information (Fig.1, management program 144, and remote computers, resources available, see col.4, lines 36-50), said registered information characterizing said pieces of terminal equipment including information identifying equipment types (see col.3, lines 19-44) functional characteristics of said pieces of terminal equipment (Fig.6, col.4, line 65 to col.5, line 55, using the information database to store the data information of members), and

prescribed information is transmitted to terminal equipment specified by said registered available environmental information (Fig.3B).

10. As to claim 6, Kisor teaches the invention as claimed, wherein said terminal equipment having a display capable of displaying at least some of said prescribed information is selected based on the available environmental information registered in said registering means (See Fig.3B, col.4, lines 50-67).

11. As to claim 7, Kisor teaches the invention as claimed, wherein said available environmental information includes information identifying an owner of a least on terminal equipment (see col.4, lines 44-50).

12. As to claim 8, Kisor teaches the invention as claimed, wherein said available environmental information is registered in said registering means in accordance with a registration request through said terminal equipment from prescribed portable terminal means (Fig.1, remote 108)

13. As to claim 9, Kisor teaches the invention as claimed, wherein said available environmental information is registered in said registering means in accordance with the registration request transmitted from said terminal equipment, when prescribed external storing means is connected to said terminal equipment (see col.7, lines 5-58).

14. As to claim 10, Kisor teaches the invention as claimed, including an information controller connected to a network comprising: registering means for registering information characterizing terminal equipment used by a user terminal equipment connected to said terminal equipment used by said user, and other terminal equipment connected to said network together with information for identifying said user as available environmental information (Fig. 1, management program 144, and remote computers, resources available, see col.4, lines 36-50), said registered information characterizing said pieces of terminal equipment including information identifying equipment types (see col.3, lines 19-44) functional characteristics of said pieces of terminal equipment (Fig.3B, resource available file, see col.4, lines 44-50, and col.5, lines 1-53), and

transmitting means for establishing a transmission path such that provided information is transmitted to terminal equipment specified by the registered available environmental information (see col.4, lines 51-67, and col.7, lines 3-37).

15. As to claim 11, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, wherein said transmitting means selects the terminal equipment having a display capable of displaying at least some of said provided information on the basis of said registered available environmental information and transmits said provided information to said selected terminal equipment (See Fig.3B, col.4, lines 50-67).

16. As to claim 12, Kisor teaches the invention as claimed, wherein said registering means includes information identifying an owner of terminal equipment (see col.4, lines 44-50).

17. As to claim 13, Takahashi teaches the invention as claimed, including terminal

equipment connected to a network comprising: transmitting means for transmitting user identification information for a user using said terminal equipment, registered information identifying said terminal equipment information about connection equipment connecting to said terminal equipment to said network as available environmental information (Fig. 1, management program 144, and remote computers, resources available, see col.4, lines 36-50), and said registered information characterizing said pieces of terminal equipment including information identifying equipment types (see col.3, lines 19-44) functional characteristics of said pieces of terminal equipment (Fig.3B, resource available file, see col.4, lines 44-50, and col.5, lines 1-53).

18. As to claim 14, Kisor teaches the invention as claimed, comprising:

identifying information reading means connected to external storing means for reading out said user identification information from an external storage means connected to said terminal equipment, and conveying said user identification information to said network as part of said available environment information (see col.5, lines 1-18).

19. As to claim 15, Kisor teaches the invention as claimed, comprising: identifying information receiving means for receiving the user identification information of said user transmitted from prescribed portable terminal means, user identification information of said user transmitted from portable terminal means, connected to said terminal equipment, and transmitting said user identification information to said network as part of said available environment information (see col.5, lines 30-58, and col.6, lines 45-60).

### ***Response to Arguments***

20. Applicant's arguments filed on November 10, 2005 have been fully considered,

however they are not persuasive because of the following reasons:

21. Applicants argue that Kisor does not teach information identifying equipment types and functional characteristics of said pieces of terminal equipment. In response to Applicant's argument, the Patent Office maintain the rejection because Kisor teaches information identifying equipment types and functional characteristics of said pieces of terminal equipment as shown in col.3, lines 19-44. Kisor clearly shows information identifying equipment types.

22. Therefore, the Examiner asserts that cited prior arts teach or suggest the subject matter broadly recited in independent claims 1, 3, 5,10, and 13. Claims 2, 4, 6-9, 11, 12, 14, 15 are also rejected at least by the virtue of their dependency on independent claims and by other reasons set forth in the previous office action.

23. Accordingly, claims 1-15 are respectfully rejected.

### ***Conclusion***

24. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

25. Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Tammy T. Nguyen** who may be reached via telephone at **(571) 272-3929**. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. eastern standard time.

If you need to send the Examiner, a facsimile transmission regarding this instant application, please send it to **(703) 872-9306**. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, David Wiley, may be reached at **(571) 272-3923**.

*TTN*

February 2, 2006

  
**DAVID WILEY**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**  
**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100**